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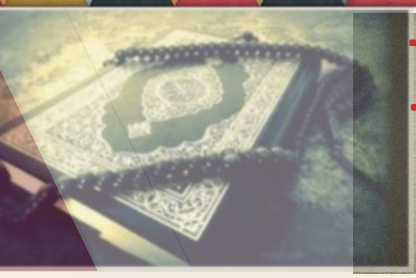


From the Holy Qur'an

Al-A'La (Ch. 87) Verse: 15-18

قَدْ اَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكّٰى ﴿١٥﴾

Verily, he truly prospers who purifies himself,

وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهٖ فَصَلّٰى ﴿١٦﴾

And remembers the name of his Lord and offers Prayers.

بَلْ تُؤْثِرُوْنَ الْحَيٰوةَ الدُّنْيَا ﴿١٧﴾

But you prefer the life of this world,

وَالْاٰخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَّاَبْقٰى ﴿١٨﴾

Whereas the Hereafter is better and more lasting. [87:15-18]

Sayings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)

قَالَ " أَظُنُّكُمْ سَمِعْتُمْ أَنَّ أَبَا عُبَيْدَةَ قَدِمَ بِشَىْءٍ مِنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ . فَقَالُوا أَجَلْ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ " فَأَبْشِرُوا وَأَمِّلُوا مَا يَسُرُّكُمْ فَوَاللَّهِ مَا الْفَقْرَ أَخْشَى عَلَيْكُمْ . وَلَكِنِّي أَخْشَى عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ تُبْسَطَ الدُّنْيَا عَلَيْكُمْ كَمَا بُسِطَتْ عَلَى مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ فَتَنَافَسُوهَا كَمَا تَنَافَسُوهَا وَتُهْلِكَكُمْ كَمَا أَهْلَكَتْهُمْ "۔ (صحیح مسلم باب زہد و تقویٰ کا بیان)

"By Allah, I do not fear poverty for you, but I fear that this world will be spread out in front of you as it was spread out in front of those before you, and then you will vie for it as they vied for it, and it will destroy you as it destroyed them.' [Bukhari 3791]

So Said the Promised Messiah (as)

Avoid luxuries

(Malfoozat Volume 7, Page 108)

"God the Almighty says: the heretics indeed are the people who are pleased to have the gains of this world and they are contented with them that they do not feel the urge to make a move towards God.

The verse 'fala noqeemo lahum yaumal qiyamati wazna', does not mention sin because these are the people who gave all the preference to the worldly desires.

At another place God the Almighty says: these people have got the full enjoyment of this world; there also it is not the sin that has been mentioned rather it is pleasure of this world which ordinarily is made lawful by God.

These people who have been called heretics got themselves engrossed in the acquisition of these pleasures. This type of people will have no worth in the eyes of God Almighty nor will they be honoured.

A luxurious life is indeed a Satan which deceives a man. So far as the behaviour is concerned he himself runs after the hardships. Were he to make compromises he would live a life of comforts.

If the Holy Prophet (sallallaho alaihi wa sallam) had done this there would have been no need for him to go to (through hardships of) battlefields but he gave preference to religion over the worldly affairs and therefore all the people turned into his enemies."

Jihad of the Pen

"God has willed that in this age the pen should replace the sword and the enemy should be vanquished by the written word . . . (you should) certainly realise that the need of the time is not of the sword but of the pen."

Malfoozat (Vol. I, pp. 59-60)

Summary of Friday Sermon

Giving precedence to faith over worldly matters

(This is a summary of the Urdu Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may allah be his Helper), Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on 17th October 2014 at Baitul Fatuh Mosque. The English translation is adapated from www.alislam.org)

Every man, woman, young and old of the Jama'at knows a phrase very well, which is

'I shall give precedence to faith over worldly matters.'

This is because the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) drew great attention to this. Speeches of our orators cite this phrase as well as addresses of Khulafa. Indeed, this phrase is a synopsis of the conditions of Bai`at as it is a summary of the pledges of our various auxiliary organisations. And these words are also mentioned in the conditions of Bai`at. In short this phrase is a promise an Ahmadi makes on which his Bai`at is dependent. As does his connection with Khilafat and Nizam e (administration of) Jamā'at rely on this phrase. If he does not practice this phrase then his claim to Bai`at, connection with Khilafat and Nizam of Jama'at is erroneous.

And assertions about Bai`at attainment of God's pleasure are reduced to mere verbosity! In this regard the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:

> **'If someone asserts during Bai`at that he will give precedence to faith over worldly matters but does not practice it and does not honour his pledge, then what care has God for him?'**

Everyone needs to have this phrase in view at all times. As it is clear from the phrase, no worldly matters should impede matters of faith and what is faith? It is spending one's life in accordance with and under the commandments of God and to try and gain His pleasure through each word and deed of ours. With the grace of God a large majority of people among us try and remove any impediments in the way of faith but it is a fact that everyone's efforts are not the same. People have varying capacities in terms of knowledge and other matters. However, God knows what our intentions are therefore He treats each individual in accordance with his capacity. The basis of fulfilling this pledge is good intention and no excuses should be made. Some people have limited capacities even in the worldly sense due to inadequate knowledge or other factors while others make greater and appropriate efforts and focus on attaining their goal and indeed attain it.

Today's sermon was based on and in light of an exposition by Hazrat Musleh Ma`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) on this subject. An everyday example of making inadequate effort as regards one's objective would be when before stepping out some people pay too much attention to and are acutely conscious of their appearance no matter how important the task at hand. They are too pernickety not to have any creases in their clothes and fuss over this even if they do not have enough time to go where they need to be. Their effort to leave promptly is restricted due to their fuss over their clothes. Such examples can be found even today especially among Asian men and women who are too conscious about their clothes and appearance. There are others who like to follow fashion but with some other goal in sight they forgo their stylishness. If they have to run somewhere to achieve their goal they will do so notwithstanding their style and flair. If they have to sit somewhere, they will do so and will even walk in dusty surroundings if that is what it takes. This is because for them the main thing is their goal and for this they do not care about other things. Their elegant clothes or all-white attire does not become a hindrance in attainment of their goal.

Queen Elizabeth I acceded to throne in 1558 and reigned over England for forty five years. She was a famous queen and it was during her reign that England gained power and prominence. The Queen was known to like to have well-dressed and elegant courtiers around her and anyone who was not well-dressed was not allowed in her court. Indeed, she was surrounded by foppish and dapper young courtiers. Once she was going somewhere on foot with her courtiers when they reached a muddy spot. One of her young courtiers, Sir Walter Raleigh lay took off his valuable cloak and lay it down on the muddy spot. The Queen was astonished and asked why he did that. Sir Walter Raleigh replied that it was better to spoil his cloak than the Queen to get her feet dirty. From this time he was shown favour at court and was granted generous monopolies. Later, during the reign of King James I he was charged with treason and later executed although he had made many expeditions to North America during the reign of King James I.

"Always remember that it is not enough to simply have high objectives but one also has to serve and makes sacrifices."

The moral of this story is that in spite of been a dapper and stylish person Walter Raleigh forfeited his style for the Queen. If a worldly person can sacrifice his valuable cloak and give up his flair as he did we should think how much we need to do for the advancement and propagation of Islam and to strengthen and maintain it and to attain the pleasure of our Creator! Is our objective not even as dear to us as the Queen's pleasure was to Walter Raleigh? In spite of his service his ending was painful. But when one seeks God's pleasure one becomes the recipient of Divine blessings and also has an excellent ending. We should always remember that it is not enough to simply have high objectives. Always remember that it is not enough to simply have high objectives but one also has to serve and makes sacrifices. God's pleasure can be attained when one truly gives precedence to faith over worldly matters.God has not forbidden us to earn a living in the world and whatever is not forbidden is warrantable. It is indeed warrantable to wear elegant, valuable clothes, eat fine foods and live in splendid houses and have high grade ornaments. However, all this would be unwarrantable if it became a hindrance in the advancement of Islam. Shariah does not require you to look for an unattractive woman to marry. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that while looking for a prospective wife one should not only look for worldly qualities but should also look how religious the woman is. Shariah says that a wife should not become a hindrance in the worship of the husband. If our young men and women and their parents are mindful of this, family problems would be resolved by giving precedence to faith over worldly matters and the other objective, which is the objective of a true believer, that is, to attain pleasure of God would also be achieved.

Similarly it is certainly not forbidden to wear fine clothes. However restraint is enjoined not to absorb oneself so much in fashion and trends that one loses sense of religious tasks. Owing to their fineness one's clothes should not become an impediment in service of faith. Rather than pay attention to Salat one should not be mindful about not letting one's clothes get creased. Islam teaches not to be negligent about religious work and in this way one can pay the dues of giving precedence to faith over worldly matters. Religion does not stop one from eating fine foods, what is unwarrantable is when fine dining becomes a hindrance in matters of faith. It should always be kept in view that whatever interferes in religious matters should be removed. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said in this regard:

'Look, there are two types of people; firstly those who accept Islam and then become engrossed in worldly business and trade and Satan overcomes them. I do not mean here that trade is forbidden. Companions were also traders but they gave precedence to faith over worldly matters. When they accepted Islam, they attained true knowledge which filled their hearts with conviction about Islam. This is the reason why they did not falter in any field in face of Satan's attacks. Nothing stopped them from expressing the truth. Those who become slaves of the world are aficionados of the world and Satan overcomes and vanquishes such people. The other type of people are those who are concerned about the advancement of faith. This is the group which is referred to as HizbAllah (party of Allah). They triumph over Satan and his hosts.'

As stated earlier through the first quote of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) rights of Bai`at are fulfilled by giving precedence to faith over worldly matters. To have an insight of this it is important to seek religious knowledge alongside worldly things and then the knowledge should be put in practice in one's life. Without gaining religious knowledge one cannot know what faith is which needs to be given precedence. Salat is a basic article of faith in Islam but about 80% of Muslims do not observe it and if they do offer the odd Salat in the day they offer it so hastily. Hazrat Musleh Mau`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said that many prominent people are indolent about offering Salat and for aristocratic people offering congregational Salat is the same as eating flesh of swine is for ordinary Muslims. This situation persists today. Majority of the well-off become negligent about Salat and even if they offer it, their condition is contrary to how the condition of those who offer Salat should be. Those who offer Salat are guardians of human values and Salat bring pious changes in them.

It is said that the congregations in mosques of non-Ahmadis are increasing. Yet what revolutionary change has their Salat brought? The mullahs teach nothing other than hatred and this is the reason that in spite of increased congregations the fire of hatred continues to be flamed. Let alone their persecution against us, they are also perpetrating cruelty amongst themselves. They go to mosques with lowly worldly goals. Indeed for higher ideals one also needs to refine one's thoughts. If the increase in their congregations is not in view of high ideals, like propagating faith and serving humanity, then it is worthless.

All this should draw our own attention, more than ever, to understand the concept of giving precedence to faith over worldly matters. If we pay the dues of mankind along with paying the dues of God and propagate faith then we can enjoy blessings of this world as much as we want! We have to fulfil the responsibility of spreading the beautiful teaching of Islam which has been given to us. Translation of the Holy Qur'an in various languages of the world is our responsibility, we have to fulfil this. We have to build mosques everywhere so that we can facilitate true worshippers and for this planning needs to be done in every country. We have to establish the best ideals of human values and with all this even earning a living becomes an aspect of faith. Otherwise what is warrantable becomes unwarrantable for us in the sight of God.

If we push aside the thought of paying chanda when new iphone is launched or if some money has come in and we wish to buy a new car or buy a suit, what is otherwise warrantable becomes unwarrantable. If efforts are being made to have a mosque built but we give preference to other things, this is also wrong.....

If a true believers makes sacrifice where needed he is worthy of Divine reward. Sacrifice is always either borne of one's capacity or borne of need. At times Shariah only asks for sacrifice borne of need. For example if a traveller comes to a group of people with a genuine need and asks for £100 and some people in the group fulfil his need as much as they can with but there is a shortfall of £10. Just then a well-off person comes by who could easily meet the entire need of the traveller on his own but the need at the time is only for £10 and although he has the capacity to pay much more but if he pays the needed £10 with good intent he will be rewarded for it. This is making sacrifice in accordance with what the need is which the well-off person does and is rewarded by God. If there is an appeal for monetary contribution and people pay 100s and 1000s but a person of limited means can only give a few rupee or pounds which he does, God Who watches what is in hearts blesses this act of his and the man attains his objective. Just as the well-off man had attained his objective by paying what was required at time although it was a small

amount according to his capacity, the man of limited means also attained his objective by giving in the way of God according to his means.

Hadith relates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that one dirham triumphed over a hundred thousand dirhams. This was because a man who only had two dirhams gave one dirham but the other whose wealth was in hundreds of thousands only gave a hundred thousand which was lesser according to his means.
It should always be remembered that the real objective is to attain pleasure of God. **A true believer should mould the state of his heart for this purpose and his objective should be pleasure of God, therein is his success and prosperity and this is what giving precedence to faith over worldly matter entails.**

We have been given the responsibility to do great tasks. We pledge to sacrifice our life, property, time and honour. Indeed we should always ponder as to how we should utilise our capacities to give precedence to faith over worldly matters. Today Ijtema of Ansarullah [UK] also starts. They will also have their Shura. They should reflect over this, in their Shura as well and deliberate as to how much they should develop their standards of giving precedence to faith over worldly matters. In fact being Ansarullah they should be deliberating over attaining the standards because at their age Ansarullah should be role models.

God is not in need of anything of ours. It is indeed His grace and favour that He has told us that if we give precedence to faith over worldly matters we will attain His pleasure. Otherwise God is not in need of any money. All the resources, silver and gold in the world is created by Him. Had He so willed He could have Himself given wealth to people who serve faith, He could have Himself provided them. But He informed us of our objectives and drew our attention to making sacrifice in order to attain the objectives so that we may gain His pleasure.

Alongside wealth God has also bestowed us with children. He could have set in place other means of bringing up children. However, He told parents to bring up their children and
spend on them according to their means to attain high ideals so that they the children can grow up to serve faith. It is a great responsibility of Ahmadi parents to do the upbringing of their children in a way that they may serve faith. They should nurture their children in such a way that they have an insight into giving precedence to faith over worldly matters from childhood. By entrusting us with these matters God tests us and also confers on us.

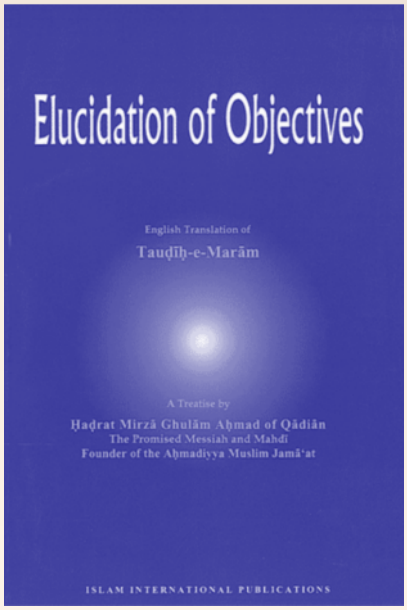
Office-holders of all levels should appreciate that their responsibility to fulfil giving precedence to faith over worldly matters is more than others. They have been made responsible to attain this objective and for this there is a great need that they should enhance their level of sacrifice. Office-holder of every level, from neighbourhood to central, having had correct appreciation of their status can try and fulfil his pledge as indeed he should. God always blesses the sincerity of those who serve faith while feeling its pain and He confer His nearness to them. Office-holders should try their utmost to attain this station. May God enable office-holder of every level and every Ahmadi to have true insight of giving precedence to faith over worldly matters and to practice upon it!

Sad news of a recent martyrdom in Pakistan was given. Latif Alam Butt Sahib was martyred in Kamra, district Okara on 15 October close to his home. An unknown person called him in the street, as he turned around he was shot in the chest four/five times. Upon hearing the news his son Zeeshan came over and the emergency services also arrived but Latif Alam Sahib was martyred on his way to the hospital.

Ahmadiyyat came in Shaheed's family through his father Khurshid Alam Sahib who took Bai`at in 1934. Shaheed was born in April 1952 and worked as air force technician. He was retired in 1991 after which he started a business of legal books and was admired by all his customers including non-Ahmadi lawyers. At the time of martyrdom Shaheed was serving as nazim publication Ansarullah and ran a stationery shop. He had also served Jamā'at in other capacities. His home was used as Salat centre for a long time. Shaheed was always eager to do Jamā'at work and had a devoted connection with Khilafat. He was regular in offering Salat and used to arrive at mosque two hours prior to Friday Prayers.
Shaheed was a very courageous man and had fought off an assailant in 2007 when a man tried to shoot him but the bullet came stuck. He was 62 years old at the time of martyrdom. His Wasiyyat was being processed at the time of his martyrdom and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih graciously approved of it and instructed the relevant office to carry out all proceedings in accordance.

Shaheed always participated in all Jamā'at programmes, never missing any. He leaves behind his widow, one daughter Iram Waseem and four sons; Khurram Butt, Zeeshan Butt, Umer Butt and Ali Butt.
After retirement Shaheed consciously stayed in the area and made home there with the hope that Jama'at would be established there. May God bring Shaheed's good intention to fruition and may in return of his martyrdom God grants us hundreds of Ahmadis and Jama'at is established in the area. May God elevate the status of Shaheed and grant steadfastness to the bereaved family.
May God keep members of Jama'at safe in Pakistan in every way! The enemy is intensifying in enmity. May God soon bring about peace and tranquillity for us! Amin

Excerpt from Taudih-e-Maram by the Promised Messiah (as)



Hadrat Abu Huraira (ra) reports that the Holy Prophet (sa) said: How will it fare with you when the son of Mary descends among you? Who will be this son of Mary? Indeed, he will be none other than your own Imam, your Mentor, who will be born among you."
[Bukhari, Kitabul Anbiya', Babu Nuzuli 'Isabni Maryama, Hadith No.3449, published by Darus Salam, Riyad, 1997]

In this Hadīth, the Holy Prophet (sa) has unequivocally stated that you should never be led into imagining that the Messiah son of Mary will himself descend in person. Actually, the name son of Mary has been used metaphorically; in reality he will be your Imam from among your own people and, in character and temperament, he will be a living similitude of the son of Mary.

People who believe in old tales misinterpret this Hadīth to mean that when the Messiah descends from the skies he will have resigned his office as Prophet and disowned the Gospels. He will accept Islam, practise the teachings of the Holy Qur'ān, observe the five daily prayers and call himself a Muslim. But they fail to explain why he should suffer such relegation.

In short, our Muslim brethren unilaterally admit that at the time of his Second Coming, the Son of Mary will be a Muslim by faith, will proclaim himself as one, and will have completely forgotten about his earlier station as a Prophet. It is an insurmountable difficulty indeed into which our brethren have managed to land themselves by treating a metaphor as literal truth. This is why they had to resort to proposing the removal of a Prophet from his Prophetic station. There was, however, an easy way out of this self-made difficulty, if only they had accepted the simple and straightforward meaning of the sacred words of the Holy Prophet (sa) already spelled out by Jesus Christ in the context of the second coming of Elijah. In that case they would neither have to expel from Paradise the soul of Messiah, nor would they be constrained to divest a pious Prophet of his Prophethood, nor would they be guilty of showing disrespect for the honour and glory of the Holy Prophet (sa), while believing that they are respectful to him. Nor will they have to pronounce what amounts to a veritable abrogation of Quranic injunctions.

Perhaps, as a last resort, they would demand some acceptable explanation of the signs concerning the Second Coming of the Messiah as mentioned in authentic *Ahadith*. For instance, it is on record that the Messiah, in his Second Coming, will dismantle the cross, repeal the *Jizyah*, and kill the swine. It is also mentioned that at the time of his second coming evil practices peculiar to the Jews will be conspicuous by their presence among Muslims. I tell you that the destruction of the cross does not signify war or armed conflict. It only means the demolition, by spiritual means, of the religion of the Cross, and to incontrovertibly establish the untenability of its creed. The abolition of *Jizyah* is self-explanatory. It only means that *Jizyah* will no longer be required. Human hearts will spontaneously respond to the truth, rendering recourse to

war unnecessary. Winds of change will blow and people will flock to enter the fold of Islam. The gates will be flung wide open; it will be an influx *en masse*. As a result, *Jizyah* will become obsolete, for no one will be left to pay it. All this, however, will not happen at once; but its foundations are being laid here and now.

Furthermore, the term 'swine' refers to the swinish humans who on that day will succumb to reason and be killed, as it were, by the sword of transparently clear arguments. It would otherwise be naïve to imagine that a Prophet of God would actually take to chasing and hunting swine in the jungles.

My dear people! These are but metaphors. Those who are blessed by God with insight will realize their true significance, not only with ease, but also with some relish. [Elucidation of Objectives, page 9-12]

"We firmly believe in Jihad, however the type of Jihad required in the modern era has changed. At this time no Government or organisation is physically attacking Islam in the name of religion. If Islam is being attacked today it is not by the sword but through the press, through the media and through preaching. And so it is the need of the time that we respond using the very same means. That is what the Promised Messiah taught – to fight with our pens and not with our swords."

Concluding address of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) at the 29th Jasa Salana of Australia at Sydney's Baitul Huda Mosque on 6th October 2013.

Message from The Editor

At the start of every meeting, we recite the pledge of Lajna Ima'illah, part of which reads "I shall sacrifice my life, property, time and children for the cause of my faith." These words are indeed a promise we make, as we stand before God Almighty, that we shall always be ready to make every sacrifice for the cause of our faith. If we really put these words to action, we will realize that giving up our lives, our property and possessions, our families and our children and even our time- it is a comprehensive and heavy promise that we are making to Allah Almighty.

As with any promise, we will be held accountable for it on the day of Judgement, and asked if indeed we stayed true to this pledge. We will be asked how many times were we presented with opportunities to make sacrifices with our lives, our children, our time, all for the sake of our faith? How many times did we step up, with a profound intention to fulfill this pledge, that we have made so many times?

Unfortunately, despite having recited this pledge since childhood, sometimes we don't really concentrate and lend careful thought to these words. These days, time is our most valuable asset. There never seem to be enough hours in the day to cross off everything on the to-do list. Time seems to be the one commodity that has become priceless and invaluable.

Given the fast paced rate at which our lives are running, if one stops to pray at the Mosque in the middle of their day, or attends a 2- hour event or meeting, or even makes some phone calls to sisters to give messages, God Almighty will be so pleased with this sacrifice of our time and energy that He, in turn, will bless and expand our time for us!

You see, true sacrifice is that which, by giving up, one really feels loss, or temporarily atleast feels a setback. So if we have four hours in the evening after school, in which we have to study, clean, eat and nap- if we were to take out 90 minutes and participate in a Lajna event- All for the sake of staying true to the promise we made to Allah Almighty-then surely, we will receive His special favor and pleasure. InshaAllah!

Let us make another pledge today- to stay true to our promises, to take every opportunity that allows us to fulfill our pledge to Allah Almighty. Moreover, let us pledge that we will seek more opportunities to serve and promote the cause of our faith, Islam Ahmadiyyat! InshaAllah!

We love Hearing from You!

Please send us your comments or submissions via email at: annisaa@lajna.ca

Wassalam,

Munaza Khan

IMPORTANCE OF SALAT

By: Malyka Ahmed Chaudhry (Woodbridge)

The topic I have chosen to write about is the importance of salat. Offering the five daily prayers will keep us focused on the right path and we will be able to achieve the pleasure of Allah. This is why the Holy Prophet (sa) has told us that the first thing we will be questioned about on the Day of Judgement is our salat. The Holy Prophet(sa) used to say "*quraata-aynee-fesalat*" , meaning that the delight of my eyes lies in prayer.

The Holy Prophet (sa) once asked his companions, "if there was a river in front of a man's house and he took a bath in it five times a day, would any dirt be left on his body? The companions replied, "No, O Prophet (sa) of Allah!" The Prophet (sa) then said, "similar is the case with salat. If you pray 5 times a day, no sin would remain with you; meaning Allah would forgive all of your wrongdoings."

About the importance of salat, the Promised Messiah(as) said: The standard or characteristic of a godly life or a life spent according to Allah's pleasure is salat. He who is always crying in front of Allah in his prayers achieves peace in life. Just like a child cries and shouts in the lap of his mother, he expresses the love and sympathy of his mother. In a similar fashion, the one who cries in front of Allah; he puts himself in the lap of Allah. Remember that a person who has not experienced pleasure in his salat has not tasted the sweetness of faith." [Malfoozat, Vol. II, p. 145] Our beloved Imam Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper) has told us: "Every Ahmadi man should keep advising his wife and children regarding prayers, should wake them up and continuously bring them towards Allah." [Friday Sermon Oct 1st, 2004].

May Allah help us understand the importance of salat and may we be among those who safeguard their prayers. Amin

Report

38TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CANADA 2014

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

38th Annual National Convention of Canada

Venue:

International Centre Mississauga,

Ontario

Date:

Friday June 20th to Sunday June 22nd 2014

Report By: Saadia Amtul Basit

By the grace of Allah, the 38th Annual Convention of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada was held successfully from June 20th, 21st, & 22nd, 2014 at the International Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. Twenty-one thousand nine hundred and fifty nine (21,959) people attended the convention. There were participants from 21 countries. The program was streamed live on YouTube and MTA Canada channel from men's side.

Jalsa Sālāna started with the Friday Sermon delivered by respected Amīr Sahib Canada, Lal Khan Malik Sahib. He highlighted the importance of the Jalsa, saying that the true aim of attending the Conventions is to follow the path laid out by Promised Messiah(as) which can only happen if we show true obedience. Lunch was served following the Jumaa and Asr prayers. The formal proceedings of Jalsa Sālāna began after lunch. The Friday transmission was relayed from men's side. There was complete silence observed on the ladies' side. The session was presided by: Sahibzadi Amtul Jamil sahiba – daughter of of Hazrat Musleh–e-Mau`ud(ra), Amtul Noor Daud sahiba-National President Lajna Ima'illah Canada and Amtul Latif Malik sahiba- wife of Amīr Jama'at Canada and Meena Sahi sahiba of England.

This year, similar to the previous year, the ladies session was held on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, at 4 o'clock, the second session commenced. It was presided by
Sahibzadi Amtul Jamil Sahiba – Daughter of Hadhrat Musleh-e-Mau`ud(ra) ,Amtul Noor Daud Sahiba – National President Lajna Ima`illah Canada, Mrs. Mubarak Nazir Sahiba-wife of Mubarak Nazir Sahib Missionary In-charge Canada.

Ladies' session began with beautiful recitation of the Holy Qur'ān by Naima Arif sahiba. She recited the verses 2-5 and 8-9 from Surah Aal-e-Imran. The translation was rendered by Khaula Mian sahiba.

This was followed by a poem by Promised Messiah(as) from Durre Samin : *Hai Shukar Rabbe Assawajall Kharij-az-bayan*. It was recited by Shumaila Alyana sahiba, and translation was done by Sadia Chaudhry Sahiba.

First speech of the session was in English, and was delivered by Nighat Mahmood Sahiba on the topic of "The Holy Qur'ān-An Ultimate Reference Book."

She said that the Holy Qur'ān is her reference book for all small or big problems she faces in life. Whenever an issue comes up, she consults the Qur'ān, and it gives her perfect guidelines to solve the problem. The speech had a light conversational style which drew everyone's attention to it; moreover she dealt with current women issues such as following the latest fashion trends and going for the brand names in clothing; for these issues, her reference book suggests that one should be content with what one has rather than entering the rat race of being the best in material goods. The reference book said that one should spend in moderation and that the.. "best garment is the garment of righteousness."(7:26).

On justice, she gave another example which was closer to home: the judgment on Ijtimā speeches. She said the best way to avoid bias and conflict in judgment is to follow the instructions of the Holy Qur'ān: "Be strict in observing justice, being witness for the sake of Allah..."(4:136) When the question arose of whom to be friends with , again this verse solved the problem: "Take not those for friends who make a jest and sport of your religion."(5:58). Similarly, other issues like respect of parents, marriage problems, lottery tickets, same sex trends, astrology and backbiting were all dealt with the same unique and interesting manner. In the end, she stated the Hadīth in which Prophet Muhammad (sa) advised a companion when he was sending him to a distant region, to seek the help of Holy Qur'ān and Sunnah for solving any issues he came up with. Promised Messiah(as) states in Chasma-e-Ma'arfat: "There is no need for any other book after the Holy Qur'ān, for it sets out all that is needed by man."

This speech was followed by an address by President Lajna Ima'illah Canada. Her topic was "Self Reformation- Pathway to the Love of Allah."

Her very eloquent and scholarly speech threw light on every type of social and moral ill we face and suggested most effective measures to get rid of them. She stated that self- reformation is an act of improving one's self. She brought everyone's attention to the guidelines laid out by the Holy Qur'an, ahadith and sayings of Promised Messiah (as) and his Khulafa. These guidelines, in summary, state that the aim of these conventions is not to just sit together and listen to speeches and then without acting upon the advice ,wait for the next Convention, instead, the real aim of these annual conventions is self- reformation and self- purification. We should listen to every speech carefully because when we did the initiation at the hands of the Promised Messiah (as) and his Khulafa ,we pledged that we will not tell lies, be jealous of each other's achievements, not backbite, fight ,or use abusive talk in the house or outside, not to disrespect others or be suspicious or hold grudges or have envious feelings, or be proud and arrogant towards our fellow beings. If we wish to make the impact of Jalsa permanent, then each one of us should get rid of all these evils and prostrate before Allah and try to bring about a change in our hearts. Allah loves those who do good, but sin is nurtured in the absence of Allah's remembrance and obedience. If we succeed in self -reformation then our moral sins will be overcome. True believers are beautiful because piety shines on their faces and illumines them. Falsehood and suspicion must be avoided, for they lead to bad blood and quarrels among partners, friends and relatives. Therefore, we must listen to such thought-provoking speeches and try to act upon them for these speeches wake us up from our spiritual slumber. Sadr Sahiba stressed on reciting istaghfar abundantly because it is a key to spiritual rejuvenation. She asked all the sisters to make a pledge to get rid of at least one sin, so that the process of self-reformation may begin.

After Sadar Sahiba's speech, the rest of the program was relayed from men's side.

This year the Zafrullah Khan Award for Public Service was awarded to Hazel McCallion, the Mayor of Mississauga, celebrating her illustrious service as a public servant. After this, the academic awards were given to students from high schools, colleges and universities of Canada. This session ended with a very eloquent speech by Maulana Mubarak Ahmad Nazir Sahib, Missionary In-charge Canada, which warmed hearts of the audience. This was followed by a special dinner for the guests. On the women's side, special arrangements were made by the Tabligh and Ziafat department to receive the guests. Rest of the members of Jamā'at were served dinner in the adjacent Ziafat (food) hall.

The ladies' second session began on Sunday June 22nd, 2014 at 10:30 am. This session was presided by Sahibzadi Amtul Jamil Sahiba – Daughter of Hazrat Musleh-e-Mau`ud(ra), Amtul Noor Daud Sahiba – National President Lajna Ima`illah Canada and Mrs Amtul Latif Malik sahiba - wife of Amir Sahib Canada.
The session began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'ān from Surah Al-Zumar Verses 11-19 and 21 by Abida Mansoor sahiba; the translation was read out by Zakia sahiba. This was followed by a poetic rendition of the poem Barhti Rahay Khuda Ki Muhabbat Khuda Karay •written by Hadhrat Musleh Mau`ud (ra). The poem was recited by Maryam Iqbal sahiba. The translation was read out by Sumaira Muzaffar sahiba.

Naureen Sohail Sahiba delivered the first speech of the second session :
"If you become Mine then the whole world will become yours". She beautifully stated that one should worship Allah beyond any consideration of rewards or punishment. She said that this revelation beautifully turns our attention towards worshipping Allah which is our main aim in life. We perform our daily religious rituals keeping in mind our daily wants and needs but such worship is devoid of its true spirit of worshipping Allah. Allah says in Holy Qur'ān "We have crated men and jinn for worshipping Allah (51:57)," but if we are not fulfilling this objective, then how will we face Allah on the day of Judgement?

The first step towards Allah demands purification of soul. For this, we have to follow the ten conditions of Bai`at stated by the Promised Messiah(as) . Just as a magnet attracts iron towards itself, similarly Allah's thousands of Magnetic powers in the shape of his attributes attract the pure souls towards Himself and then these attributes start flowing in the souls as well. For example, if one can patiently bear the bad behaviour of in-laws and forgives them, then Allah's attribute of forgiveness engulfs one. If you ignore or cover-up the bad behaviour of someone, then Allah's attribute of As Sattar comes into you. So the more we ponder upon Allah's attributes, the more we will become like Him. If we bear the anger of our husband with patience, it will be because Allah likes patience; thus we will get satisfaction from being sad or happy or pained or relieved just because our actions are for the sake of pleasing Allah alone. When one attains this satisfaction, then bad deeds or thoughts cannot be a part of our life, as our sole concern becomes to win the pleasure of Allah. We will exhibit the virtue of righteousness and then the whole world will be ours. Allah's true worship will grant us heaven on Earth. As the Promised Messiah (as) said, "our heaven is our Allah."

Second speech of the session was by Saema Shah sahiba on the topic of, "Keeping my Identity in today's World."

She shared many ways to establish our identity in today's society as Muslim women. In the present society our individuality is not who we are, but how we contribute to the society. Nowadays in every country it has become very difficult for Muslim women to maintain their Islamic identity, so our most important identity is to attach ourselves whole heartedly to our Allah and become a complete picture of "We hear and we obey."She said that today the Jihad is to use the pen and strive in upholding the excellent teaching of Islam and the truth of Holy Prophet,(May Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). No matter where we live, our faith teaches us "Loyalty to one's country is a part of faith."

Quoting from Huzoor's(aba) sermon ,she said, that we should not hide our faith ,but firmly become practicing Muslims by acting upon the teachings of Holy Qur'ān. Further our roles are defined by our relationships and we have excellent role models to follow as Haddrat Khadija (ra) was not only a smart business women but also a devoted wife. Observing purdah is also a Muslim women's identity. Being a true Ahmadi and being connected to Khilafat is a guarantee for us to be on the righteous path .Islam teaches us to seek knowledge and use it in practical life. Similarly the Holy Qur'ān is our identity which teaches us to live within the fortress of Islam. Therefore, today's Jihad is to understand the true knowledge of Islam and to spread its teachings to rest of the world by our character and behaviour.

Last speech of the session was delivered by Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat sahiba on the topic of "Ten rules of success in everyday living"

Doctor Sahiba talked about ten rules for leading a successful day to day life. Her short but comprehensive speech outlined in a new way the rules and regulations for learning the art of living in the light of Quran and Hadīth. She said that in the light of Holy Quran ,success lies in entering the group of Allah by being pious, and muttaqi (God fearing); whereas, worldly success lies in having good health, peace and calm, good job, money, offspring, success and fame. However, for leading a fulfilling life the foremost requirement is to humbly pray to Allah and worship Him wholeheartedly. Then, one should follow the best rules of being healthy, grateful, humble, and disciplined to prepare for the life after death. One should fulfil ones responsibilities as a good wife and mother by learning the best practices so that the coming generations uphold the best habits.

Then one should be abreast of the contemporary knowledge. Being tech literate is need of the day. Reading biographies teach us how people become successful. Daily review of activities teaches us value of time. One should exercise self- control, be grateful and humble. Above all, one should never forget that life after death is the real life- hence, one should prepare for it by actively following the path laid out by Allah and His Prophets.

These five speeches were very thought provoking and interesting, with beautiful PowerPoint presentations and graphics further strengthening their effects.

Next, Academic Awards were awarded to High School graduates, College graduates and Undergraduates. This year a Scholarship has been introduced after late Tanya Khan Sahiba. She was an active member of Lajna Imā'illah Canada—a most loved and admired teacher of York Region who passed away last summer. This scholarship of $1000 dollars was awarded to two high school graduates. Five awards were given to the graduates who completed the "Mubashira Degree" from the Aisha Academy: the institution of religious education of Ahmadiyya Community, located at Peace Village. Awards were also given to students who completed a one year short program from this institution. Sahabzadi Amatul Jamil Sahiba gave the awards to the successful candidates.

Awards ceremony was the last item of women's session. Amtul Noor Daud sahiba, President Lajna Ima'illah Canada, concluded the session with final remarks and request for prayers.

The final speech of the Convention was delivered by National Amir Sahib Canada from men's side. He emphasised the importance of obedience to the system of Khilafat. He also stressed upon the importance of a peaceful marital life which can create a heaven on earth. In the end, he advised all the members of Jamā'at to watch MTA television and to work for spreading the message of Islam. The Convention ended with final prayers.

During the special Tabligh session on Saturday, 82 non Ahmadī guests attended the convention. In total, 84 non-Ahmadī guests attended the Convention.

Impressions of Two Guests

"It was well organized. Many people of different races wanted to know about Islam. I was impressed by the Ahmadiyya Community. God (Allah) bless you all."
- Angela Graham

"I had the opportunity to experience Ahmadiyya through a friend. It allowed me to see the beauty in a different way and the fact that the path to God is uncomplicated. I see and hear the value of your teachings and the importance of loving relationship through fellowship with a sect of Islam that is unknown to many."
- Jennifier Sappleton.

New Improvements

This year many changes were made to make the experience of the members more comfortable. The children's area was in a separate hall and had a separate entrance but was connected to the Ziafat hall. Both halls were provided with television screens to watch the proceedings of the Jalsa. Food was served to children's area separately. Almost 1000 boxes were made by the volunteers each day to facilitate the food delivery. Free snacks were served to the children and reading and activity corner was a source of pleasure both for the children and their mothers.

This year, a larger space area was provided in the Food Hall. Three entrances for the hall were controlled by vigilant volunteers to control the traffic to the hall during lunch and dinner breaks. Almost 8000 lunch boxes were made by the volunteers before the lunch break to expedite and facilitate the food delivery. Seniors' food area was cordoned and the VIP guest area and Volunteer's food areas were constantly supervised and replenished by the volunteers.

Almost 780 patients were provided homeopathic medicine by certified doctors.

One of the most visited stalls during the breaks was the book stall. Sales reached almost to $14,000 dollars during the three days. Most sought after books were: the Holy Qur'ān, the book on Hadīth, Book of Prayers (Duaya Khazain) and many new arrivals.
This year in the translation department, French translation was also provided. A total of 475 headsets were used by ladies to benefit from the translations in Urdu, English and French.

Ahmadiyya Teachers Association Canada

By the grace of Allah, last year, the Ahmadiyya Teachers' Association was established. The first meeting took place on the second day of Jalsa Sālāna. The meeting was presided by Amtul Noor Daud Sahiba, President Lajna Imā'illah Canada. Mrs. Durri-Sameen Ahmed, President Ahmadiyya Teachers Association Canada, stated that the goal of the Association is to create a bridge of trust between students, parents, and teachers

Poem By: Faiza Ahmed Malik

Tyranny won't change it
The faith in our heart
Is forever
It gets stronger
By the day
By the hour
By the minute
It tells us a way
Amidst the oppression
Of our surroundings
Glows in the darkness
It glows
Glows in the darkness
And lights the sky
And glitters the earth
It shimmers
It shines
Its like pearls
In a string
That gives us hope
And bliss!

BEYOND THE VEIL: SOME PERSONAL THOUGHTS

By: Shzer Ahmad (Vaughan

June 30th 2012:

I went to the Jalsa today and there was a speech by a young girl about "purdah" again. I feel so uncomfortable when they talk about that. I feel like such a hypocrite. I know I read namaaz and the Qur'an..heck I even read tahujjud so this should be a slam dunk. So why is it so hard? The closing line of her speech is still ringing through my ears… "if you take a step towards Me, I will come running towards you"…imagine Allah Ta'ala, is saying He'll come running towards me…and what am I doing…big fat nothing…I wish I had the courage to do this….

July 7th 2012:

This whole purdah thing is really riding on my mind. I can't seem to shake it off… I know it's wrong not to do it…but I'm so weak. I wish I had the guts to stand up for what I believe.

July 10th 2012:

Ok so I've been thinking about purdah AGAIN. I really want to do it and not just around here but at work. I'm tired of being this hypocrite…But I'm afraid. What will they all think at work? It's so white male dominated. They won't understand…They'll think I'm a jihadi, who's gonna blow them up. I know I shouldn't care…I must sound so pathetic…I'm more concerned about what people think rather than Allah, the Creator of the Universe. He's given me so much, my house, my family. He's given me things I couldn't even imagine and rather than thanking Him and showing Him my gratitude, here I am more worried about what gossipy Jane will think at work …I feel so ashamed.

July 12th 2012:

I've decided I'm gonna do purdah full time. I know I read namaaz, and I read the Quran and I listen to all Huzoor's(aa) sermons and I try and do all the other good things, but that's not enough anymore. I don't wanna be a hypocrite…I can't pretend if I do all that, that maybe Allah Ta'ala will just overlook this one shortfall. I mean its' written in the Holy Quran…It's a COMMANDMENT of God Almighty. Obviously it's important otherwise it wouldn't be there. Please Allah Ta'ala help me. I don't wanna feel ashamed anymore…you help others…Please give me courage.

July 14th 2012:

I've decided I'm gonna wear my scarf tomorrow morning. I've decided not to tell anyone. I just don't wanna know what they think. God knows I'm already lacking in courage…I don't need to see the horror on someone's face to make me weak. I have to do this. Allah Ta'ala please help me. Give me the strength to do what I know is right. How hard can it really be and who cares what people think anyway…This is about me and God. I've come so far, I don't wanna turn around now…

July 15th 2012:

Wow what a day. I can't believe it…I actually did it. My heart was pounding when I walked in. I'll never forget the look on Pauline's face….She looked at me like I had two heads and not just a scarf. At first I just wanted to stay in my cubicle and die…I really didn't think I would have the courage to face everyone. But I did. Allah Ta'ala really came through for me. I kept praying to God, please don't let me regret this, Please help me.…I did this for Him and Him alone. He didn't need this from me but I needed to do this for Him. I have to say I was most pleasantly surprised by my boss. Being the traditional Catholic Italian, I thought he would be mortified but he wasn't. He was so supportive and the rest of the team were great. They really made me feel like this was not a big deal… Well Alhumdulillah I did do it…it's like this heavy weight has been lifted from my shoulders…I think I'll read some nawafil tonight to thank Allah Ta'ala for the courage. …Tomorrow's another day…

August 13th 2012:

I'm still finding this purdah thing a little strange. It's been a month now. I think I must go to the washroom every hour just to make sure the scarf is still on my head but I am glad I wear a hijab…I hate when I wear it as a scarf and it keeps falling off…not practical when you're working. Aside from that they wouldn't think this is serious if my hair was showing every two minutes …maybe they're not even looking at me and here I am getting all worked up over what I think they think…

September 20th 2012

So I think I'm getting better at putting on this hijab. I've been watching all these you Tube videos. My biggest problem is finding scarves that match my outfit…sounds funny but I still wanna look good, not the stero-typical supressed women. I feel proud to say I'm an Ahmadi Muslim…I used to not wanna tell people that I'm Ahmadi 'coz I wasn't doing purdah then and I thought it would look bad on us Ahmadi's…not anymore though. Slowly but surely I'm getting back my confidence. Never thought I'd say this but there are days when I don't think the scarf is the first thing people see…maybe they never did and it was only what I wanted to believe…

July 27th 2014:

So I was chosen to be the sole representative of our department on the Executive viewpoint committee at work today….not really a big deal but ironic…I thought back to what our VP had told me on my first day when I started doing purdah, how it might become a hindrance and yet here I am 2 years later being chosen to speak in front of the CFO of Global Banking and Markets. I felt like going to tell our old VP, how very wrong he was…it's at times like this, I'm reassured that even when you think you have no one and you feel all alone, you always have Allah Ta'ala…it's so true He will never let the efforts of his believers go to waste….Alhamdulillah, but I can never thank Him enough…

November 27th 2014:

It's been 2 years and 67 days since I started doing purdah but who's counting :) has it been hard? Yes, first couple of days were harder. ...has it been impossible ...absolutely not. It's funny but when I look back to all the fears I had and the excuses I made, the biggest battle I fought was really only with ME

THE WOMAN WHO TAKES CARE OF ME ALL NIGHT AND DAY,
IT'S MY MOTHER WHO DOES WORK WITHOUT ANY PAY

SHE TEACHES ME WITH LOVE AND CARE
SHE TEACHES ME HOW TO SHARE

MY MOTHER HELPS ME STAY STRONG IN MY FAITH
BECAUSE MY MOTHER ISN'T GOOD, SHE'S GREAT!

MY MOTHER IS THE ONE WHO WILL ALWAYS LOVE ME
WHETHER IT'S THROUGH HARDSHIPS OR THROUGH GLEE

AT NIGHT TIME, MY MOTHER WATCHES ME FALL ASLEEP
SHE IS AMAZING AND SHE IS MINE TO KEEP.

JIHAD OF THE PEN:
SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF ISLAM AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS AHMADI MUSLIMS

BY: AMTUL MATIN MALIK (CALGARY SOUTH)

Jihad means "to struggle in the way of Allah".

There are many kinds of Jihad but in this day and age the jihad of the pen or *jihad bil qalam* is what is prescribed by our Beloved Imam, the Promised Messiah(as):

He said in a very open and easy to understand manner:

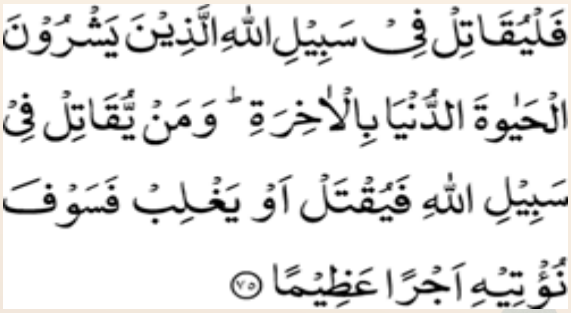
"It is with the pen that Islam is being attacked. That is why it is necessary that pen should be used to rebut the attacks. God the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'ān that you should make preparation to defend yourselves with the same kind of weapons as the opponents happen to use…Think of the preparations that the opponents of Islam are now making. They are not lining up the armies. They are•publishing magazines•and books. We also should, therefore, pick up our pen and answer their attacks with magazines and books. [Malfoozat vol. 8 page 20]

We do verbal tablīgh, we hand out pamphlets, we hold and attend interfaith symposiums and Conventions, which are all excellent forms of spreading the message of Islam. But another very significant form of tablīgh is writing and expressing truth, reaching out to the world through your words and thoughts written down.

This is a high-tech age, so you need not always grab a pen and paper. You can log on to your devices anywhere, anytime. You can blog, you can post comments and messages. It's our duty being Ahmadi Muslims to use this latest technology to perform our jihad of the pen and safeguard our religion, Islam.

How can we be ignorant of what is being written about Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam, the Holy Prophet (pbuh), about the Promised Messiah(as) and about our beliefs. No ! We have to do this jihad! It is our responsibility being an Ahmadi Muslim to spread the truth, to say the truth and write the truth.

"Let those then•fight•in the cause of Allah who would sell the present life for the Hereafter. And whoso fights in the cause of Allah, be he slain or be he victorious, We shall soon give him a great reward." (4:75)


فَلْيُقَاتِلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يَشْرُونَ
الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا بِالْآخِرَةِ ۚ وَمَنْ يُقَاتِلْ فِي
سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيُقْتَلْ أَوْ يَغْلِبْ فَسَوْفَ
نُؤْتِيهِ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا ۝٧٤

Now in this verse it is essential to recognize what is meant by jihad or fight. To understand it better, I present before you extract from our beloved Huzoor's (May Allah be his Helper) recent address .He said:

"In this era, with the advent of the Promised Messiah(as), the 'Jihad of the Sword' has been entirely eradicated. Today it is the 'Jihad of the Pen' that is the need of the time…We firmly believe in Jihad, however the type of Jihad required in the modern era has changed. At this time no Government or organization is physically attacking Islam in the name of religion. If Islam is being attacked today it is not by the sword but through the press, through the media and through preaching. And so it is the need of the time that we respond using the very same means. That is what the Promised Messiah taught – to fight with our pens and not with our swords." [6th•Oct 2013 Jalsa Sālāna Australia]

The first step we need to take in order to discharge this responsibility, is follow this hadith *"Acquisition of knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim man and woman."*

Firstly, we need to read our own books, translation and commentaries of the Holy Qur'ān, books of the Promised Messiah(as) and Khulafa Ahmadiyat. Secondly we need to understand the facts of our religion, and know our beliefs. Then, we should make ourselves aware of the allegations against us.

There are already excellent responses penned by others; we can read those to further our understanding of the issues under debate.

We should listen to our beloved Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) on MTA, along with enriching programs like Rahe Huda, Real Talk and many others.

Then it is our duty to write in newspapers,magazines,Internet and every other place that we can.

The Promised Messiah (as) wrote more than 80 books himself. He wrote (in Urdu):

Safe dushman ko kiya hum nain baahujat paamaal

Saif ka kaam qalam say hi dikhaya hum nain.

Meaning :

We defeated rows of the enemy with reasoning and argument

We did the job of a sword actually with a pen

May Allah enable all of us to undertake this jihad of the pen and may we be successful in fulfilling our responsibility as Ahmadi Muslims in spreading the message of Islam through our writing. *Amin.*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: "We shall never put our trust in the world, but rather in God seeking help from Him alone. Today, it is the duty of the followers of the Promised Messiah (as) that by working hard and making use of wisdom, they go and plant the Islāmic teachings of goodness and beneficence in the hearts of everyone in the world. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to increase the number of Ahmadīs who should preach the message of Islām to the world. Also, there is a need for the Nizām Jamā'at to be actively involved in this."

Friday sermon by Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) on 31-Oct-2014

THOSE WHO DO NOT SHOW MERCY, WILL NOT BE SHOWN MERCY

BY: SOFIA ALI (NASIRAH, CALGARY SOUTH)

"Malla Yarham Laa Yurham" Those who do not show mercy, will not be given mercy." Today, I have the honour of talking about this hadith of our beloved Master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad(sa). But before I talk about this, let me first establish what the word *mercy* means. It means to show compassion to other people, and to forgive them, no matter what they have done. The Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet's(sa) life are filled with examples and commandments about showing mercy. Allah Ta'la says in the Holy Qur'ān"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and those who are with him are severe against the disbelievers and merciful to one another."•(Chapter 48 Verse 29)

Mercy is not only for humans, but for all creation of Allah; animals, and plants as well. In fact, the Holy Prophet(sa) once narrated a story in which a woman, was going to a well because she was very thirsty. Upon doing this, she also saw a dog which was very thirsty and she thought "This dog is as thirsty as I am". And then, she drenched her scarf in the well and squeezed it in the dog's mouth. After this kind act of mercy, she was forgiven by Allah. My sisters, THIS is the kind of mercy and compassion we should show to the creations of Allah. And in return, Allah will do the same to us. In light of this, the Holy Prophet(sa) said "The Most Merciful shows mercy to those who have mercy on others. Show mercy to those on earth, and the One above the heaven will show mercy to you."

My sisters, if we call ourselves Muslims, then we must do our best to become a source of mercy for not only our close ones, but for all of mankind. The world should learn from us, what kindness and love for humanity truly means. But we don't need to take big steps to do this. The Promised Messiah (as) writes "If you are big, then have mercy for those who are small. If you are wise and smart, then use that knowledge to teach the less learned people. If you are rich, then use the money to help the poor." Sisters, THIS is the purpose of mercy. To use what you have and offer it to the less fortunate; whether it be money or other worldly objects, or love.

In the end, I pray that as Ahmadi Muslims, we become a representation of the true Islam and gain the nearness and mercy of Allah the Almighty, by showing mercy to others. *Amin!*

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO HUZOOR-E-ANWAR (MAY ALLAH BE HIS HELPER)

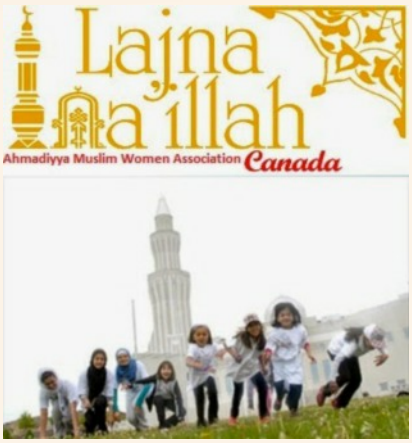
By: Farah Ahmad (Calgary South)

- Write Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim on top of your letter.
  (If you are typing, you can copy the Arabic writings from a website)
- Write *Nahmaduhu wa Nusalli 'Alaa Rasulihil Kareem Wa 'Alaa Abdihil Masihe Ma'ud*Meaning: We praise Allah and send salutations upon His noble Prophet(saw) and the Promised Messiah(as)
  (This is not obligatory but it expresses a certain respect)
- Write your city and date on the top right corner
- Write *Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh* on centre with "Dear or Dearest Huzoor" or "Dear beloved Huzoor"
- Inquire about Huzoor's health and well-being and offer prayers for his success. For example: "*May Allah Almighty bless* Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) *with health, a long life and strength to lead the Jama'at to spread the light of Islam Ahmadiyyat all over the world. Allahumma Amin."*
- Introduce yourself by mentioning your full name, age, where you live, (if you are waqf or musi), introduction through parents or relatives who Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) might know personally. (A long introduction is not necessary every time. If you are sending him letters for a long time, full name and living place are enough)
- Request your prayers. For example: *I am a student in engineering in 2nd semester. I am preparing for my exams. Please pray to Allah, the Almighty, to make me successful in my studies.* You can also request prayers for someone else: family members, friends or for someone who is under tabligh.
- Try to keep your letter as short as possible
- End your letter with prayers, for example a prayer for our Jama`at: *May Allah enable us to serve Islam Ahmadiyyat in the best possible manner.*
- Write *Wassalam* at the end of the letter
- Make sure you keep some space for your signature
- At the bottom include your full name, address, postal code, city and very important: your Country. (The Fazl Mosque Office always gives us a reminder not to forget the country)
- If you want, you can also write down your member ID number or Waqf ID number
- Postal Address: In respect of Khalifatul Masih V,
  Private Secretary's Office, Fazl Mosque
  16 Gressenhall Road,
  London SW18 5QL,
  United Kingdom
- Fax: +44 208 870 5234

May Allah enable us to establish a long relationship with our beloved Khalifa and enable us to meet his expectations. Amin.

CELEBRATING THE COLORS OF EID

LAJNA VAUGHAN NORTH



This year Lajna Ima'illah Vaughan North decided to do something different to celebrate Eid! Every year, Lajna members would share the spirit of Eid by sending greeting cards and gifts to classmates and teachers at school. However, this year, Vaughan North Lajna decided to celebrate Eid and introduce the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at to the school community at the same time. Lajna members held fundraising activities in the halqa for this purpose and many sisters generously donated, collecting a total of $380.

A donation of $225 was made to the school library and a huge nut-free cake was sent to the school from the Ahmadiyya Muslim children.

By the grace of Allah all the teachers, the Principal and the Vice Principal were very happy. They appreciated it a lot. The school newsletter had a huge thank you note for the Ahmadiyya Muslim children for their generosity. Lajna Vaughan North also set up a display in the school highlighting the religious as well as the social aspects of Eid. The display was liked by all!

Sacrifices Never Forgotten

By Iram Shahzada (Vancouver)

Looking in the eyes of my fellow
Seeing nothing, but a glare of yellow.
Could hear the footsteps near; of death
This may be my only breath.
Fate is toddling from death to life
Memories of back home, alight
Letters written with our blood
Tears fall down, soaking the mud.

Gone from my home, very far away
To fight a war with much dismay,
Today, I will not be afraid nor scared
I fight here, very well prepared.
I know I am left alone, all alone
Crawling I enter the deathly zone
Just for my country I bravely fight
I smile upon seeing a heavenly light.

My mother might want her son;
Don't worry I am not the only one
Tear upon tear she would cry,
Seeing my face in the sky
She might be sad for a while
I want to talk, I want to smile
Families of ours would be proud
Covering our bodies with a shroud

For peace and freedom we all pray
May God bless us on Remembrance Day.

Letters to the Media

Stand Against War

Author: Myda Khan
Date published: Saturday, July 26, 2014
Newspaper: The Star Phoenix

For the past week, my social media feed has been bombarded with posts regarding Palestine and Israel, and their ongoing conflict.

As the conflict continues, so do the questions that arise with it, such as: What is the cause of this conflict? Is it religious? And most importantly, who is to blame? Those who believe this war is solely a religious conflict, and that Islam and Judaism are incompatible seem to conveniently ignore the fact that for centuries Jews coexisted peacefully with Muslims under the Ottoman Empire. This is not a war simply between being Muslim or Jewish. It is far more complex and, like any war, there's a perpetrator and a defender.

However, we are far past the point where we need to point fingers to determine who is right and wrong. It is time for the international community to bring a stop to this massacre.

I will not remain silent and let our government continuously take sides and allow Israel "to defend." I am sorry, Stephen Harper, but this is no solution.

What happened to Canadians identifying themselves as peacemakers? There is no peace in supporting the continuation of killing innocent civilians. How many lives must be lost for us to say enough? This is not a war of religion; this is a war against humanity, and we must stand up.

Hijab doesn't define Skills

Author: Humda Malik
Date published: Wednesday, August 13, 2014
Newspaper: Edmonton Journal

After a four-year hiatus from the workforce I decided it was time I pulled out the old resume and revitalize it. I received a few interview calls and revelations into the current state of employment in our city.

What really stood out was a particular interview for an medical office receptionist. After the regular questions and polite discussion, my interviewer asked "Are there any restrictions in your religion?" Why would I be asked that? Perhaps because I wore the hijab. I was truly stunned, considering all the job required was for me to do filing, paper work, pull up patient records, and be courteous to the patrons.

How would wearing a hijab and being a Muslim restrict me from those duties? I was astounded by my interviewer's ignorance, especially considering that the clinic was located in a ethnically diverse area. I have seen hijab-wearing women work as nurses, teachers, doctors, bus drivers and clerks. After that question I realized I did not fit the mould, and was within 24 hours given a rejection letter, as I expected.

It would be unwise to pursue employment where I would be discriminated against and I am mature enough to know that there was probably someone more technically qualified, but that insinuation about my faith was very demoralizing, especially considering there was no relevant concern.

Edmonton is a growing city with a diverse population. Employers should develop skills in people relations and realize that people of all walks of life will apply for their jobs, and that a piece of cloth on one's head does not make an applicant incompetent, nor define their skills or work ethic.

Thank You

An Nisaa' editorial board would like to say a special jazakumAllah to all those who submitted their work for this issue. We regret we were unable to print all submissions, but would like to recognize those who sent in their Articles.

- Aaida Javed- Woodbridge
- Beena Zafar-Newmarket
- Fariha, Martindale Calgary
- Hunza Choudhry- Surrey North
- iffat Adan- Peace Village Centre East
- Lubna Bukhari-Brampton Flowertown
- Samia Chowdhury, Maple
- Recipes from Majlis Calgary South
- Riffat Adan- Peace Village Centre East
- Seher Ahmad-Vaughan North